WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent within the patient's body at a controlled rate; and

a rate-controlling element layer covering at least a portion of the source and including at least one therapeutic capable agent and providing for an initial relatively more rapid release of the at least one therapeutic capable agent therapeutic from the rate-controlling element layer as well as a sustained, controlled release of the at least one therapeutic capable agent from the source.

2. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with the scaffold ; and

a rate-controlling element disposed adjacent at least a portion of the source and being configured to control the release of the therapeutic capable agent in the patient's body at an initial rate and at a subsequent rate relatively slower than the initial rate.

3. A device as in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the rate-controlling element covers the source.

4. A device as in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the rate-controlling element covers only a portion of the source.

5. A device as in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the source comprises a reservoir.

6. A device as in Claim 5 wherein the reservoir is at least partially disposed over the expandable structure.

7. A device as in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the scaffold comprises a tissue facing and a luminal facing surface.

8. A device as in Claim 7 wherein the reservoir is disposed adjacent the luminal facing surface.

9. A device as in Claim 7 wherein the reservoir is disposed adjacent the tissue facing surface.

10. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

a radially expansible implantable scaffold having a plurality of regions exhibiting different mechanical profiles during the expansion of the scaffold and including relatively lower and relatively higher mechanical profiles; and

a source of at least one therapeutic capable agent comprising a plurality of segments and disposed adjacent at least a portion of the scaffold.

11. A device as in Claim 10 wherein the segments are disposed adjacent the relatively lower mechanical profile regions.

12. A device as in Claim 10 wherein the segments are disposed adjacent the relatively higher mechanical profile regions.

13. A device as in Claim 10 wherein the segments are disposed adjacent only the regions that do not undergo substantial bending, flexing, stretching, or compressing upon the expansion of the scaffold.

14. A device as in Claim 10 wherein the segments are disposed adjacent only the regions that do not undergo more than about 5% of bending, flexing, stretching, or compressing upon the expansion of the scaffold.

15. A device as in Claim 10 wherein the segments are disposed adjacent only the regions that undergo substantial bending, flexing, stretching, compressing upon the expansion of the scaffold.

16. A device as in Claim 10 wherein the areas exhibiting relatively higher mechanical profile are configured to be in a direct flow of body fluids flowing through the intracorporeal body.

17. A device as in Claim 10, 13, or 16 further comprising a rate-controlling element disposed adjacent the scaffold.

18. A device as in Claim 17 wherein the rate-controlling element is disposed adjacent at least a portion of the source.

19. A device as in Claim 17 wherein the rate-controlling element is formed from a nonporous material.

20. A device as in Claim 18 wherein the rate-controlling element has a variable thickness.

21. A device as in Claim 20 wherein the rate-controlling element has a greater thickness adjacent scaffold regions having relatively higher mechanical profile.

22. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with at least a portion of the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent within the patient's body; and

a rate-controlling element disposed adjacent at least a portion of the source and including at least one disruption sufficiently large to permit material transport to or from the source.

23. A device as in Claim 22 wherein the at least one disruption is an aperture.

24. A device as in Claim 22 or 23 wherein the at least one disruption is preformed.

25. A device as in Claim 22 or 23 wherein the at least one disruption is formed in the patient's body.

26. A device as in Claim 22 or 23 wherein the transport comprises at least one of transport of native fluids to the source or of the therapeutic capable agent from the source.

27. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with at least a portion of the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent within the patient's body; and

a rate-controlling element disposed adjacent at least a portion of the source and being configured to mechanically change upon application of mechanical stress or strain.

28. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with at least a portion of the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent within the patient's body; and

a rate-controlling element disposed adjacent at least a portion of the source and which undergoes a mechanical change upon being implanted in the patient's body.

29. A device as in Claim 27 or 28 wherein the mechanical change is one of mechanical fracture.

30. A device as in Claim 27 or 28 wherein the mechanical change is one of change in surface characteristic.

31. A device as in Claim 27 or 28 wherein the mechanical change is one of change in porosity.

32. A device as in Claim 27 wherein the mechanical stress or strain is applied upon the bending of the scaffold.

33. A device as in Claim 27 wherein the mechanical stress or strain is applied upon the expansion of the scaffold.

34. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with at least a portion of the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent within the patient's body; and

a swellable rate-controlling element disposed adjacent at least a portion of the source.

35. A device as in Claim 34 wherein the rate-controlling element swells upon exposure to the intracorporeal environment.

36. A device as in Claim 35 wherein the rate-controlling element is configured to release the therapeutic capable agent from the source.

37. A device as in any one of Claims 1, 10, 22, or 27 wherein the device comprises a stent.

38. A device as in Claim 37 wherein the stent comprises metallic material.

39. A device as in Claim 37 wherein the stent comprises polymeric material.

40. A device as in Claim 39 wherein the stent comprises a degradable material.

41. A device as in Claim 39 wherein the stent comprises a non-degradable material.

42. A device as in Claim 37 wherein the device is balloon-expandable.

43. A device as in Claim 37 wherein the device is self-expandable.

44. A device as in Claim 37 wherein the source comprises a matrix.

45. A device as in Claim 44 wherein the matrix includes a matrix material.

46. A device as in any one of Claims 1, 10, 22, 27, or 37 wherein the rate-controlling element is formed from a nonporous material.

47. A device as in Claim 46 wherein the porosity of the rate-controlling element changes upon implanting in the patient's body.

48. A device as in Claim 1, 10, 22, 27, or 37 wherein the rate-controlling element is formed from a porous material.

49. A device as in Claim 46 or 47 wherein the rate-controlling element comprises a parylene polymer or copolymer.

50. A device as in Claim 48 wherein the parylene comprises parylene C.

51. A device as in Claim 46 wherein the rate-controlling element becomes at least partially porous upon expansion of the scaffold.

52. A device as in Claim 46 or 48 wherein a rate of release of the therapeutic capable agent from the device in an unexpanded state in the patient's body is different than that in an expanded state.

53. A luminal prosthesis comprising:

a scaffold which is implantable within a body lumen;

a substance-containing reservoir positioned over at least a portion of a surface of the scaffold; and

a rate-controlling element layer covering at least a portion of the substance-containing reservoir, the rate-controlling element layer having the substance dispersed therein and providing for an initial rapid release of the substance from the rate-controlling element layer as well as a sustained, controlled release of the substance from the reservoir.

54. A luminal prosthesis comprising:

a scaffold which is implantable in a body lumen, said scaffold being radially expansible and having regions which undergo greater and lesser mechanical stress or strain during radial expansion; and

a substance-containing reservoir or layer comprising individual portions which are preferentially positioned over the regions which undergo lesser stress or strain.

55. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 54, wherein the substance-containing layer is positioned only on those portions of the scaffold that do not substantially bend, stretch, or compress when the scaffold is expanded.

56. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 54, further comprising a rate-controlling element layer formed over at least a portion of the scaffold.

57. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 56, wherein the rate-controlling element layer is thicker over regions of greater mechanical profile.

58. A luminal prosthesis comprising:

a scaffold which is implantable within a body lumen;

a substance-containing reservoir positioned over at least a portion of a surface of the scaffold; and

a rate-controlling element layer covering at least a portion of the substance-containing reservoir, the rate-controlling element layer having at least one preformed aperture which is sufficiently large to permit the transport of body fluids to the substance-containing reservoir and/or the release of substance from the reservoir.

59. A luminal prosthesis comprising:

a scaffold which is implantable within a body lumen;

a substance-containing reservoir positioned over at least a portion of a surface of the scaffold, and

a rate-controlling element layer covering at least a portion of the substance containing reservoir, the rate-controlling element layer being configured to fracture when stressed by substantially bending, expanding, stretching, or compressing of the scaffold.

60. A luminal prosthesis comprising:

a scaffold which is implantable within a body lumen;

a substance-containing reservoir positioned over at least a portion of a surface of the scaffold; and

a rate-controlling element layer covering at least a portion of the substance containing reservoir, the rate-controlling element layer being configured to swell to permit release of substance from the reservoir when exposed to a luminal environment.

61. A luminal prosthesis comprising:

a scaffold which is implantable within a body lumen;

a substance-containing reservoir positioned over at least a portion of a surface of the scaffold; and

a rate-controlling element positioned over at least a portion of the surface of the scaffold and covering less than all of the substance containing reservoir.

62. A luminal prosthesis as in any of Claims 53 through 61, wherein the luminal prosthesis comprises a metal stent.

63. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 62, wherein the metal stent is balloon expandable.

64. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 62, wherein the metal stent is self-expanding.

65. A luminal prosthesis as in any of Claims 53 through 61 wherein the substance-containing reservoir comprises a matrix layer including the substance dispersed in a matrix material.

66. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 65, wherein the substance and the matrix material have been vapor deposited on the scaffold.

67. A luminal prosthesis as in any of Claim 53 through 61, wherein the substance-containing layer consists essentially of a homogeneous layer of the substance.

68. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 67, wherein the substance has been vapor deposited on the scaffold.

69. A luminal prosthesis as in any of Claims 53 through 61, wherein the scaffold comprises structural elements having rectangular cross-sections defining four orthogonal surfaces, wherein the drug is positioned on fewer than all of the surfaces.

70. A luminal prosthesis as in any of Claims 53 through 61, wherein the rate-controlling element is porous.

71. A luminal prosthesis as in any of Claim 53 through 61, wherein the rate-controlling element is nonporous.

72. A luminal prosthesis as in any of Claims 53 through 61 further comprising a base layer over at least a portion of the scaffold and at least a portion of the substance-containing layer.

73. A luminal prosthesis as in any of Claims 53 through 61, wherein the rate-controlling element layer comprises a parylene polymer or copolymer.

74. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 73, wherein the parylene has been vapor deposited over the scaffold or a portion thereof.

75. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 73, wherein the parylene comprises parylene C.

76. A luminal prosthesis as in Claim 73, wherein the parylene is nonporous.

77. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent having a degree of crystallinity less than about 90 % and associated with the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent within the patient's body ; and

a rate-controlling element disposed adjacent at least a portion of the source and being configured to control the release of the therapeutic capable agent to the patient's body.

78. A device as in Claim 77 wherein the therapeutic capable agent has a degree of crystallinity less than about 50 %.

79. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent at a targeted tissue site within the patient's body; and

a rate-controlling element disposed adjacent at least a portion of the source and being configured to effectuate a therapeutic capable agent flux density of about 1.71x10-14 ug/(cm^2s) to about 1.71x10-8 ug/(cm^2s).

80. A device for as in Claim 79 wherein the flux density ranges from about 1.71x10-14 ug/(cm^2s) to about 3.43x10-9 ug/(cm^2s).

81. A device for as in Claim 79 wherein the flux density ranges from about 8.57x10-12 ug/(cm^2s) to about 3.43x10-9 ug/(cm^2s).

82. A device for as in Claim 79 wherein the flux density ranges from about 1.71x10-11 ug/(cm^2s) to about 1.03x10-9 ug/(cm^2s).

83. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent at a targeted tissue site within the patient's body; and

a rate-controlling element disposed adjacent at least a portion of the source and being configured to control the release of the therapeutic capable agent in the patient's body, the device having a residual stress in an unexpanded state less than about 10%.

84. A device for as in Claim 83 wherein the residual stress is less than about 5 %.

85. A device for as in Claim 83 wherein the residual stress is less than about 1%.

86. A device for as in Claim 83 wherein the residual stress is less than about 0.5%.

87. A method for making a device for intracorporeal use, comprising:

providing an implantable structure having a first residual stress and including a scaffold; and

at least one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent at a targeted tissue site within the patient's body;

changing the structure residual stress to a second residual stress;

disposing a rate-controlling element adjacent at least a portion of the source and being configured to control the release of the therapeutic capable agent in the patient's body.

88. A method as in Claim 87 wherein the changing step comprises reducing the residual stress.

89. A method as in Claim 87 wherein the changing step comprises exposing the structure to ultrasound energy for a period of time.

90. A method as in Claim 87 wherein the changing step comprises exposing the structure to vibrational energy for a period of time.

91. A method as in Claim 87 wherein the changing step comprises heating the structure to a first temperature for a period of time.

92. A method as in Claim 91 wherein the first temperature is less than the melting point of the therapeutic capable agent.

93. A method as in Claim 91 wherein the first temperature is about the same as the melting point of the therapeutic capable agent.

94. A method as in Claim 91 wherein the at least one therapeutic capable agent comprises a plurality of therapeutic capable agents and the first temperature is about the same as the melting point of the therapeutic capable agent with the lowest melting point.

95. A method as in Claim 91 wherein the first temperature is more than the melting point of the therapeutic capable agent.

96. A method as in Claim 91 wherein the at least one therapeutic capable agent comprises a plurality of therapeutic capable agents and the first temperature is more than the melting point of the therapeutic capable agent with the lowest melting point.

97. A method as in Claim 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, or 95 wherein the changing step is performed before the disposing step.

98. A method as in Claim 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, or 95 wherein the changing step is performed after the disposing.

99. A method as in Claim 87 wherein the chaning step comprises heating the structure to a second temperature for a period of time and is performed after the disposing step.

100. A method as in Claim 99 wherein the heating of the structure to a second temperate is performed under vacuum.

101. A method as in Claim 99 wherein the heating of the structure to a second temperate is performed in the absence of oxygen.

102. A method as in Claim 98 wherein the second temperature is less than the glass transition temperature of the rate-controlling element.

103. A method as in Claim 98 wherein the first temperature is about the glass transition temperature of the rate-controlling element.

104. A method as in Claim 98 wherein the first temperature is more than the glass transition temperature of the rate-controlling element.

105. A method as in Claim 87 wherein the changing step comprises the step of both Claims 91 and 99.

106. A device for intracorporeal use within a patient's body, comprising:

an implantable scaffold;

at lease one source of at least one therapeutic capable agent associated with the scaffold and configured to release the therapeutic capable agent within the patient's body; and

a rate-controlling element layer covering at least a portion of the source and being formed from a non-porous material.

107. A device as in Claim 106, wherein the non-porous material comprises parylene.

108. A device as in Claim 106, wherein the nonporous material becomes at least partially porous when exposed to conditions in the patient's body.

109. A device as in claim 106, wherein the rate-controlling element becomes disrupted when exposed to conditions in the patient's body.

110. A device as in Claim 106, wherein the rate-controlling element includes a therapeutic capable agent.

111. A device as in Claim 110, wherein the therapetuic capable agent in the rate controlling element is the same as the therapeutic capable agent in the source.

112. A device as in claim 106, wherein the nonporous material is selected from the group consisting of plasma deposited polymers, sputtered materials, evaporated materials, electroplated metals, electroplated alloys, glow discharge coatings, polyethylenes, polyurethanes, silicone rubber, cellulose, and parylene.